Dear Js, 3/25/74

This has been so wearing a day I aim for a 10 p.m. bedtime not because I'm still that aching from the weekend's physical endeavors or because I want to be fresh for tomorrow's college appearance but because the emotional drains tire me more. The latest Ray insanity and the Post story and my letter to Barry represent two of those of which I've carboned you.

I did not learn until going for Lil that Nixon had in the last minute asked for a four-day delay in responding to the Jaworski subpenaes. The time was not needed except for a stall. I can't but wonder if the new stall is not just another in the unending chain of them but can be linked to what I fear is coming, the real blast at the Post, which will be at the Post per se and symbolically.

Reading that story did shake me up. You should recall enough of what I have written about Woodward's refusals. You don t have to recall them all. Some were without explanations, really with unacceptable explanations.

Do you now recall that there came a time when I stopped sending him anything and switched to Bernstein? And then dropped him, too, until contact with Barry?

And my recent memo asking you if you could detect what I thought I had, influences at work within the paper (not on this but on CIA)?

Now if I could spot these things, do I have to say what those with facilities and capabilities can have or did? Or caused?

I see no defense that can accomplish anything. Any defense is another diversion for Nixon. The only way is to attack and the Post won't and isn t prepared to anyway.

The new and expaactable milk disclosures do Nixon's work and further destroy any popular faith in anything. This serves more than Nixon's selfish needs. It destroys all faith and diminishes his crimes, making them look traditional and accepted.

So, it was a downer day.

I had clipped the paper but had not read it until the prof, who had just gone over some of my WG notes, phoned to tell me about it. I then read that one story.

Now I'll look at the rest unless, as I suspect, I doze over them.

A pleasant note: Lil enjoyed the wit and the fact of the wok explanations. She read it as soon as she got home.

She's back at the tax grind. This year she can't wait until the season ends. It is more than that it has been too much for her, which it has been. She was more than overloaded and had the worst help yet.

Taxes-Nixon's. I don t know if the full import of my letter to JL was clear. It is an effort to get into the least equivocal areas, where official culpabilities are certain because of the specific language of the law. It should eaable me to sue if he does it and there is no performance. IRS and GSA and perhaps Justice.

Add 3/26/74 Just before bed read Jules Witcover's The President and the Press, ed-page piece. With what I had just written and what had been on my mind, it is almost a forecast of what I can see as a possibility.

Unfortunately, when this kind of thinking and writing was needed, at the very beginning of the story, no paper dared it. Today it does not have to be inconspicuously on the ed page. But that also is where the Post, again long too late, had his article noting for the only time anywhere (that I can recall) the remarkable coincidence between the hushmoney hishhush in the WH and Mc Cord's letter to Sirica.

Nixon's method is never to answer or defend, always to attack. In fact, when there was no reference to this in the press, I went into it at some length from his record in the started book. I suppose it illustrates what has made me so prolix, the feeling that there is an urgent need for context, for all the detail that is needed for full comprehension.

HW 3/26/74